



Acton Fall Fair Ladies Board elected their executive for 1981 at the annual meeting Saturday. Seated is president Heather Rennie. Back row first vice Lucille Cooksey, secretary Helen Medland and second vice Marilyn Murray.

1980 Fair turns profit

by Jennifer Rowe
With three good days of sunshine, the Acton Fall Fair managed to cover all expenses and retain a little profit to begin the 68th annual event in 1981, it was revealed at the annual meeting Saturday.

Secretary-treasurer John Rowe said the three day fair which handles \$91,683.21 throughout the year turned a profit of \$458.48 after all bills from the 1980 event were paid. Total prize money paid amounted to \$31,107.40, up almost \$8,000 over last year. Prize money makes up 40 per cent of the fair's disbursements.

The 25 page report showed more people coming through the gates in 1980 compared with 1979. Admission price was the same both years. Over the three days \$27,144.15 was taken in by the Agricultural Society up from the \$23,448.78 collected last year. Advance tickets sold for admission to all three days accounted for \$2,070

Calf club won't disband but fair board concerned

The Acton 4-H Calf Club won't disband in 1981 and likely won't close down next year either.

Suggestions that there shouldn't be a separate Acton Calf Club were raised at the recent Halton 4-H leaders annual meeting.

The idea of closing the local cattle club up set Acton Agricultural Society members who discussed the issue at Saturday's annual meeting.

Evans elected fair president

by Jennifer Rowe
Brian Evans was re-elected for his second term of office as president of the Acton Agricultural Society at the annual meeting held Saturday at Knox Presbyterian Church.

Keith Aitken will remain as first vice, Norm Shea as second vice and John Rowe was re-instated as the Fair Board's secretary-treasurer for 1981.

President Evans said the fair was a great success in 1980 and felt the additional attractions such as the boat races on the lake, the mini tractor pull, the Arabian horse show and changes in the poultry show helped to make the three day event successful and gave people their money's worth.

"I feel we put on quite a fair," Evans told the 40 members attending the day long meeting.

In his address Evans thanked committee members and his own executive which he said helped him tremendously throughout the year. "It takes a lot of work off the president when everyone is doing their job," Evans said.

Directors of the Fair Board for 1981 are Brian Evans, Keith Aitken, Norm Shea, Ted Brown Jr., Maggie Hall, Ed McGeragie, Cathy Lasby, Bill Yundt, Roy Topelko, Roland Height, Glen Williamson, Bob Johnson, George Stull, Hans Kuechler, Rae Swackhamer, John Rol and John Thompson.

executive of the 22-year-old Acton group have met and are concerned about discussion at the 4-H leaders' meeting about the suggestion the Acton group is duplicating other clubs' efforts and maybe should fold.

She said unfortunately none of the Acton leaders could attend the meeting.

Questionnaires are being sent out to club members parents and leaders asking how they feel about the club and the suggestion it should be disbanded.

"I'm pretty proud of this club and would hate to see it disband. Much of my personal success has been because of 4-H involvement and we want to pass things on to the younger people. We have some outstanding members," Ms. Lasby declared.

The Acton Agricultural Society, which began sponsorship of the Acton Calf Club, is going to write to Miller protesting suggestions the club disband. If necessary they will also send a delegation to voice their concerns.

It was noted at Saturday's meeting the Acton Calf Club is very active and over the years many members of the fair board have been former club members.



The cast remains the same for the 1981 fall fair. President Brian Evans, left, second vice Norm Shea, standing, and first vice Keith Aitken, right, were re-elected for a second time of office at the annual meeting Saturday. Secretary-treasurer John Rowe collects membership fees from the executive.

Golden Agers

Enjoy trip to Niagara

Acton Golden Age Club held their evening meeting on Jan. 21.

It was milder and very sunny just what some of the members ordered for a winter bus trip. This trip to Niagara-on-the-Lake to see the "Merry Widow" was thoroughly enjoyed as well as the beautiful sunset on the way home. We appreciate our convenor's ability to have the members home shortly after 8 p.m. and also to the members of that trip who came to the meeting at night.

The singing of O Canada and the Theme Song opened the meeting. We enjoyed entertainment first since guest commentator Mac Sprowl had to attend another meeting.

Mac and Joyce visited Australia in November bringing back many slides. These were thoroughly enjoyed and with it being summer and the flowers in bloom, we also saw herds of cattle plus 27,000 sheep on one ranch. It is no wonder Australia is the largest wool exporter in the world.

A minute's silence was observed in memory of one of our members, Mary Osborne.

Cards of thanks were read from several of the members.

The group heard about the next trip to Niagara-on-the-Lake in the early part of February to see "Kiss-me-Kate".

Dennis Perlin made administrative head

After a two-hour "in camera" session, and a narrow 11 to 10 vote, Dennis Perlin was named last Wednesday as the new Chief Administrative Officer of the Regional Municipality of Halton.

The appointment is effective March 1, 1981.

Mr. Perlin, 33, the Regional solicitor, has been made Acting Chief Administrative Officer in October following the retirement of Ernie Reid.

Much speculation at that time circulated as to the reasons for the retirement of Mr. Reid. It came during the height of the \$435,000 "surprise" deficit which later rose to \$700,000.

Mr. Perlin was made the Acting CAO and served in the post during the time a management consulting firm, Hickling and Johnson, did a complete survey of what went wrong inside Halton Region and how to make it right.

He was hired as the Regional Solicitor Jan. 1, 1978.

The consulting team spoke with councillors in camera for almost one hour and then were excused, along with Mr. Perlin, as the councillors went into a heated debate.

It was not known what was said but they could be seen in animated debate, complete with desk-thumping.

The lengthy session could have resulted from the fear on the part of some councillors, including Jim Grieve of Burlington, who said they would be against Mr. Perlin being named to the post without the job being advertised and a number of candidates for the position interviewed.

Questioned if the finance and administration committee had considered the hiring of Mr. Perlin at a Jan. 14 committee meeting, Mr. Pomeroy replied "We had an in-camera session at the end but I'm sorry I can't divulge anything publicly as to the recommendations we discussed."

Mr. Grieve called the Region's bylaw authorizing the hiring of a chief administrative officer "a farce".

Asked prior to last Wednesday if the committee had decided not to advertise for a new chief administrator, Mayor Peter Pomeroy of Halton Hills said, "that hasn't been the topic of discussion at any public meetings that I am aware of."

Also on Sunday, St. Alban's Anglican and Knox Presbyterian churches will be visited

Up hours of French

The proposal for expanding core French instruction received approval by a narrow margin by Halton trustees, however, there may be other hurdles before it gets a green light.

Trustees voted 10-8 in favor of a 40 minute per day period of core French to start in Grade 4 next fall. The program would be phased into higher grades—one at a time—to Grade 8.

The board also voted, by the same margin, some \$248,499 for salaries and supplies for the program.

At least one and perhaps two additional approvals are needed before anything happens in classrooms.

Another report is slated from program committee and one from finance—which may include the cost of bussing. Trustees will have opportunities to consider the entire proposal again.

Opposition to the expanded French program was led by Milton trustee Ivan Armstrong and finance chairman Noel Cooper.

Armstrong said he could remember students dropping out of school because French was compulsory. "How about kids who are just hanging on by their fingernails?"

The Milton trustee also said he was concerned because when government grants are cut Halton would have more program than it can pay for.

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Ten days starts this weekend

Ten Days for World Development starts this weekend with visits to Acton churches by a South African and two Guatemalan speakers.

South African social activist Mankeolo Mahlangu will be talking to the Trinity United Church congregation for an informal hour at 9 a.m. and during the service at 10 a.m.

The 30-year-old exile has been involved at executive levels with such organizations as The Soweto Committee of 10, Soweto Action Committee, People United to Save Orphans, Industrial Feeding Scheme, Youth Christian organizations among others.

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Halton pleas again for early kindergarten start

Halton is making a special plea to Ontario Minister of Education Bette Stephenson before it throws in the towel concerning the starting age of kindergarten children.

The board set aside adopting a motion which would have brought it in line with the province. Ontario wants school boards to enrol in September youngsters whose fifth birthdays are no later than the following December. Halton has for 11 years enrolled children whose fifth birthdays have been as late as the end of February.

A group of Acton parents is forming to see what it can do to change the province's mind. Meanwhile other groups have already been set up elsewhere in Halton. Oakville parents wrote a number of letters to the board. Many of the parents also attended the Wednesday board meeting in Burlington.

If Halton carries on with its own policy there will be no provincial grants to help cover the cost of teaching the early starters. One figure quoted that taxpayers can expect to absorb if Halton goes its own is \$100,000.

Burlington trustee Noel Cooper told fellow trustees he wants another chance to raise the issue with the minister before the board abandons its own policy.

The board tried to arrange a meeting with the minister when the issue first surfaced in December, however, the minister directed inquiries through her regional director.

Halton was also unsuccessful in getting the province to postpone the deadline for compliance.

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